SHORE LINE

Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture
Vol. III No. 2
Fall 1995

INTRODUCING NEW STAFF AT RESEARCH CENTER FOR DELMARVA HISTORY AND CULTURE AT SALISBURY STATE UNIVERSITY

Full-Time Director

Since mid July, the Research Center employed Rebecca F. Miller as its first full-time Director. Many of you know Ms. Miller through local historical and genealogical organizations; others may recognize her name as the compiler /publisher of many abstracts of Somerset County primary source records.

Our new Director holds a 1976 M.A. degree in history from this institution and brings us many years of experience in law firm management acquired in Los Angeles.

Ms. Miller is a 12th-generation Somerset Countian, residing at *Miller's Choice* in Princess Anne with her husband, Joe Butler, and children Emily and Austin Butler.

Graduate Assistants

The Research Center welcomes two new graduate students for the 1995-1996 year: Christine Murphy Richardson and Liana Vrajitoru. Christine holds a B.A. in art history with a history minor from Temple University in Philadelphia and is working toward a M.Ed with a concentration in history at SSU. Christine resides in Wicomico County with her husband and son.

Liana is an exchange student from Romania, Eastern Europe, working toward an M.A. in English. She was graduated in 1995 from the Al. I. Cuza University of Iasi, Romania. Her choice of SSU for graduate study was influenced by the fact that Jim Welsh, a professor of English at SSU, taught for a year in Romania. Liana is fluent in English and Spanish and has studied French, Italian and Latin as well. Her personal interests include swimming, horses and parachutes and her friends call her "Witchy".

Christine and Liana assist with archival work, creating displays and accessioning and cataloging collections. During the fall semester, you will meet Christine Monday through Thursday and Liana Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Student Assistants

We welcome two undergraduate students to help in the Research Center: Carolyn Lowman, a history major, and Araina Krosney, a psychology and education major from Baltimore. Carolyn is from Snow Hill and plans to pursue her M.A. in history, working toward a career in archival work. You may meet Carolyn on Thursday evenings and Saturdays; Araina is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Volunteers

What would we do without them?!?

As you know, for the past several years, members of the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society have graciously volunteered to keep the Research Center open on Monday evenings until 9:00 p.m. It's time we thanked them for making the Research Center accessible in the evening. They are: Carolyn Adkins, Philip L. Goldsborough, Betty Murrell, Jeff Pilchard, Emalu Simpson, Linda Laird Sterling and Lloyd and Lucy Whitehead. Jeff Pilchard is the coordinator of this effort and deserves extra thanks for doing duty the nights no one signs up. In addition to the Monday night crew, LDGS members Polly Batchelder and Peg Lauridsen volunteer on alternate Tuesdays and Mondays, respectively. Polly is examining each roll of Somerset

County microfilm to ensure the description matches with the contents--an arduous task that has been desperately needed. Peg is diligently working to help create a shelf list for all the books in the reading room..

Thanks are due also to LDGS for volunteering to encapsulate the Leslie Dryden Collection in archival-quality materials. LDGS is underwriting the entire project, from labor to materials. Lucy Whitehead is coordinating this effort so special thanks are due to her.

Debbie Decker of Bishopville created our display in the reading room. Many thanks to Debbie for this beautiful exhibit on Delmarva culture.

Betty Mason of Pittsville has been invaluable in her volunteer efforts, particularly during the summer months.

Faye Brooks, a volunteer at the Worcester County Library in Snow Hill, has developed a source key to the Leslie Dryden Collection. With painstaking effort, Faye compiled examples of Mr. Dryden's hand-written source notations and has photocopied the sources with the interpretation of same for our use. Please ask if you'd like to take advantage of Faye's work.

New Books at RCDHAC

Some of our newest acquisitions are always on display in the reading room. Since July, nearly 150 new books have been accessioned and are on the shelves for your perusal and research. They are too numerous to list here, but include volumes on records of North Carolina, Kentucky, New Jersey and Ohio as well as several volumes on immigration records. Some of our new books of particular interest include:

Settlers of Maryland, Peter Wilson Coldham (use as an index to our microfilm patent record collection);

Dictionary of Archaisms and Provincialisms; J.O. Halliwell;

American State Papers: Documents of the Congress of the United States in Relation to the Public Lands and Claims - 1789-1837 - 9 Vol.s;

Social Life in Virginia in the Seventeenth Century, P.A. Bruce;

Genealogies Catalogued by the Library of Congress Since 1986;

Chesapeake Bay Voices, collected by Maurice Duke;

Tombstone Inscriptions of Upper Accomack County, Virginia by Cary, Miles & Miles

A Northumberland County Bookshelf or a Parcel of Old Books, 1650-1852;

The Powhatan Indians of Virginia, Their Traditional Culture;

War of 1812: Virginia Bounty Land and Pension Applications by Patrick Wardell;

and some "oldies but new-to-us goodies":

Allen, Maryland, The People of Allen, rev. 1995;

Old Buckingham by the Sea by I. Marshall Page 1936 (Presbyterians in Worcester County);
Tidewater Maryland, (1931) and *Tidewater Virginia* (1929) both by Paul Wilstach;

Maryland Main and the Eastern Shore, 1967 by Hulbert Footner

New Microfilm at RCDHAC

The Research Center has approximately 1500 rolls of microfilm of primary source records of the Delmarva Peninsula. Our newest acquisitions include:

PATENT RECORDS for the colony of Maryland 1724-1748 20 rolls

ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH OF CRISFIELD, MD, baptism and marriage records 1870-1939. 2 rolls

1798 FEDERAL TAX LIST for Caroline County and Talbot County 2 rolls

PREROGATIVE COURT OF MARYLAND Inventories, Accounts, Wills, Balance Books, Testamentary Proceedings. 160 rolls

New Special Collections at RCDHAC

Most of you are familiar with our book and microfilm collections and utilize them extensively. However, what makes the Research Center a unique place are the special collections. Below is a list, with a brief description, of collections processed and accessioned since July.

95.27 - **Asbury Methodist Church Records of Crisfield.** Photocopies of church records 1870-1939. Shelf (we also have microfilm of this)

95.28 - **Richard P. Yantis.** Photocopy of 1783 tax lists for Worcester County arranged alphabetically by tract name. Shelf

95.29 - **F.M. Henderson.** 16 binders of group sheets and descendancy charts on descendants of James Henderson; 12 binders of same on descendants of William Merrill, Sr. Shelf

95.30 - **David W. Scott.** A photocopy of c1930's manuscript *Wainwright and Related Families* by Emerson Roberts. Shelf

95.31 - **George R. Shivers.** A photocopy of his manuscript of *Changing Times. Chronology of an Eastern Shore Village* about the community of Allen, MD. Shelf

95.32 - **Theodore W. Dize.** Collection of some photocopies but more than 200 original receipts 1898-1914 relating to the schooner *James G. Blaine* out of Smith Island, MD. Stacks

95.33 - **Lester Laws.** Business records from Laws Construction Co. 1920's Salisbury, which constructed Pepsi Bldg., Johnson's Lake Dam, Salisbury Park waterworks and many other projects; photocopies of genealogical charts on the Laws family; WW II manuals and more. Stacks

95.34 - **Anna Long.** Photocopies of WW II records; and copies of photographs of Carey family of Fruitland; list of Methodist ministers of Hungary & Peggy Necks 1860 and 1869. Stacks

95.35 - **Wayne Wallace.** An original marriage certificate from 1889 complete with photos. Stacks

95.36 - **Martha Steele.** 1892 plat of lands of heirs of Robt. B. Spedden on county road from Cornersville to Barre Neck. Stacks

95.37 - **Silverthorne Family.** 3 pamphlets on family and 29 pages of research. Stacks

95.38 - **Hobbs Family.** Photocopies of notes and group sheets on that family. Stacks.

95.39 - **Wilbur Ross Hubbard.** 7 1952 photos and 18 photos of Crisfield area. Stacks

95.40 - **Jesse M. Pollitt, Jr.** 290 pages of photocopies of letters written by Pollitt 1943-1946. Great WW II material. Stacks

95.41 - **S. Norris Pilchard, III.** Extensive collection of Salisbury-related items, Gunby family genealogy, WW I invasion map, original 1877 Atlas.

95.42 - **Harold Davis.** Photocopies of manuscripts on the West family and Perryhawkin Church of East Princess Anne, Somerset County. Stacks

95.43 - **Sussex County Sheriff's Records.** 1920's documents from that office. (In process.) Workroom

95.44 - **Edward Smith.** Photocopies of newspaper articles and a manuscript relating to Upper Fairmount, Somerset County, MD. Stacks

95.45 - **Bert Thornton.** 67 pp of photocopies of documents (deeds, receipts, etc.); Schoolfield Bible record; correspondence 1868-1874 by Susan Aydellotte Slocumb. Stacks.

95.46 - **Steve Dennehy.** 20 pp of photocopies of research and group sheets on the Wheeler family. Stacks.

RCDHAC as HISTORY "LABORATORY"

A goal of the Research Center is being realized this semester as two history classes are utilizing the Research Center for class projects. Mr. Ed Jones' U.S. History class had an assigned paper, the basis of which was a predetermined group of 18 Century Eastern Shore inventories. The students could use one or all of the inventories in their research. This was an opportunity for those students to create history by using primary sources. Under the direction of Becky Miller, students use the Research Center to find out additional information while developing skills in thinking and writing critically.

Mr. Bart Talbert's Civil War class was assigned the task of comparing the 1860 and 1870 censuses for residents of Wicomico County to ascertain the economic effect of the Civil War on that area. Students were required to strive for completeness in their citations of all inhabitants. We hope this will result in a publishable accurate census.

A number of history classes have received introductions to the available resources. In each case, Ms. Miller's presentation was tailored to the specific class.

RESEARCH HOURS

Those who have visited us will notice that our hours have been greatly expanded. This is possible due to student help as well as the appointment of a full-time Director.

The Fall Semester hours for research are:

Monday & Thursday 9:30 - 9:00
Tuesday, Wed. & Fri. 9:30 - 4:30
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that the above hours will change at the end of the semester, 16 December 1995. The Research Center follows the academic calendar and will reopen for regular hours during the Spring Semester beginning Monday, 30 Jan 1996.

The abbreviated hours during which the Research Center will be open from 16 Dec. through 30 Jan will be:

Monday 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30 - 4:30
and by appointment. Our telephone number is (410) 543-6312.

The Research Center will be closed for Thanksgiving Thursday and Friday 23-24 November 1995; Monday Christmas Day, and Monday New Year's Day 1996.

The Spring Semester hours may change from that of the Fall Semester due to student schedules.

PAF PROGRAM
INSTALLED AT RCDHAC

Mr. F.M. Henderson of Provo, UT was kind enough to donate the latest version of Personal Ancestral File to the Research Center. The program is installed on the computer closest to the entrance. Becky Miller has "gedcommed" her database of about 8000 names for your use. Please note that the notes portion is not installed as the computer does not have enough memory capacity.

The concept is to have a huge database of Delmarva families available to researchers. At present, the computer barely holds what it has and does not have enough memory to fully utilize some aspects of the program such as Match/Merge. Please consider using the GEDCOM feature on your PAF, Brother's Keeper or Roots IV program to share your family lines with others.

DIRECTOR'S DIALOG

A personal note from Becky Miller

Thanks to all who have stopped in or telephoned to wish me well as the new Director. As some of you know, we have been busy straightening up and implementing systems for finding and keeping track of all the marvelous collections at the Research Center.

Within the foreseeable future we will have finding aids for the Worcester and Somerset County microfilm, with Delaware and Virginia to follow. As a researcher, this project is near and dear to my heart . . .

At this writing, the Research Center is planning only minor exhibitions from its collections, such as the present "Delmarva" exhibit in the reading room. However, I am very receptive to ideas for future exhibits. Let me hear from you. I would also like to hear from readers as to what would be interesting to read in a newsletter from the Research Center.

We're on the Web!

The Research Center is mentioned as a point of interest on the World Wide Web under McNeill & Poulin Historical Publishing. The address is: http://colonialhist..inter.net/colonialhist. A pleased researcher by the name of Shay O'Neal, President of Georgetown Productions, has recommended the Research Center as a delightful place to research. We think it is, but it is great to hear it from others. Thanks, Shay!

DID YOU KNOW

that as of 9 May 1995 the Maryland Hall of Records charges $10 per document up to 20 pages plus a $1.00 service charge? Admittedly, MdHR's copies are of better quality than a photocopier.

This makes our 25 cents a page seem not too outrageous. MdHR also has a policy whereby if the document or liber has been microfilmed, patrons must use the microfilm rather than the original.

The Research Center encourages patrons to make use of our microfilms of Eastern Shore public records, from 1632-1900. We like to have people use the Research Center. Please tell your friends about us.

SUMMER SEMINAR OFFERED AT RCDHAC

Using the facilities and records of the Research Center, Ray Thompson, chair of the history department at SSU, taught a research seminar "Studies in Bogerternorton on the Seaside of Old Somerset" to twenty-two students during the summer session. Students became familiar with various facets of life in the early colonial period of American history.

The Delmarva area is particularly rich in original materials which are useful in "getting to know" the early residents of Old Somerset. Using primary materials available at the Research Center, students worked on understanding the daily lives of 17th century residents of Delmarva and seeing the significance of socio-economic and kinship patterns during that period. Through an analysis of various public and private records, students were able to begin reconstructing a microcosm of life in the 17th century Chesapeake. After undertaking an initial survey of colonial Delmarva, students set to work on the land records, inventories, administrative accounts, views and estimates, and a variety of other statistical public records which provided significant information to formulate a more complete picture of the residents of this area and how they lived as evidenced through court records and such private documents as are available. Students learned the types of information available in the original records and how those records may be used to build a history of the lower eastern shore during the late 17th century.

Plans have been formalized for a Wintermester seminar to continue working on 17th century Delmarva family, social and cultural history.

RESEARCH CENTER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

The Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University was recently brought into the national spotlight when it received notification that it was the recipient of an American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) award for its exhibit and publication last year, entitled "Wootten's Delmarva; A Glimpse of Eastern Shore Life through the Photographer's Eye." Dr. G. Ray Thompson, the Project Director, was invited to attend the annual awards presentation in Saratoga, NY on 7 September 1995.

Terry Davis, executive director of the AASLH, offered congratulations to the awardees as "a group of very distinguished history professionals, volunteers and institutions who play a significant role in the promotion, interpretation and celebration of state and local history in North America.".

Many thanks to those whose work made the exhibition and publication possible. Copies of the publication monograph are available at the Research Center at a cost of $12.50 each plus postage/handling of $1.50.

CONSERVATION and PRESERVATION WORKSHOP HELD

Thanks to Marianne Scarborough and Tara Evans Taylor of the History Department for volunteering their time to familiarize the Center staff members with proper preservation and conservation techniques for historic documents. Since the Center has received a substantial number of 17th & 18th century documents in need of conservation, the staff is particularly appreciative of the instruction provided. In the future the Center hopes to offer conservation/preservation support for patrons.

ADDITIONAL THANKS

Mr. Robert Elzey of Florida for donating a MacIntosh PC to the Research Center. Former co-director Sylvia Bradley is overseeing its use.

Mrs. Louise Porter of Oceanview, DE for donating a huge stack of file folders for our administrative use.

Mr. Atwood Barwick of Upper Fairmount, MD for providing two shareware programs, Mapper and Platcheck, for our consideration. Both of these draw plats from mete and bounds descriptions.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Silvia of Salisbury for donating a manual typewriter and stand to the Research Center.

FRIENDS OF THE CENTER

Your financial support is needed to enable us to continue to provide student and community access and use of the Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture. Will you help today by sending a check payable to Salisbury State Foundation/RCDHAC?

The Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture is a repository for special collections of documents and manuscripts relating to the social, economic and family history of Sussex County, DE, Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties, MD and Accomack and Northampton Counties, VA.

The Research Center falls under the administrative arm of the Fulton School of Liberal Arts at SSU but is independently funded by the Salisbury State Foundation, a private non-profit entity.

We depend upon your generosity to the Salisbury State Foundation to fund the Research Center. Your gifts enable the Director to purchase not only books and microfilm for research, but also such needed materials such as toner and repairs for the photo and microfilm copiers. Please help us continue our **development of the Research Center by designating your contributions to RCDHAC. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law. Thank you for your support.**

___ Founding Patron $500
includes lifetime membership in Friends of the Center

___ Benefactor $250

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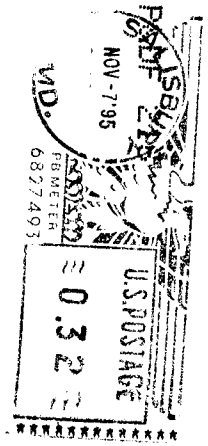
Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture

SALISBURY STATE UNIVERSITY
1101 Camden Avenue PP 190
Salisbury, MD 21801

Location: Power Professional Building
Wayne & Milford Streets

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